

OPIC Finow Airfield

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DATE PREPARED 29 August 1952

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity was observed at Finow airfield between 19 and 30 July 1952:

19 July. Between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., MiG-15 or type-29s planes took off individually and in formations. Eight single-engine, low-wing monoplanes and 38 MiG-15s were counted at the field and an additional 20 MiG-15s were estimated there.

21 July. Between 8 and 11 a.m., MiG-15s took off individually and in elements of two. The aircraft were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks which projected beyond the leading edges of the wings. Local flights were made between 3 and 6 p.m. The MiG-15s took off individually at intervals of 15 to 30 minutes and remained aloft for 10 to 15 minutes. Between 8 and 11 p.m., aircraft took off individually, in elements of two and in formations of about five planes. Their flight time was about 25 minutes. More take-offs were made between 1 and 1:30 a.m.

22 July. Between 7 a.m. and noon, individual planes made local flights and other planes practiced flying in formation for 30 minutes at the most.

23 July. Between 8 a.m. and noon, individual MiG-15s circled the field. The sky was overcast, and the visibility was limited.

24 July. Between 10 a.m. and 12:20 p.m., MiG-15s practiced flying individually and in formations for up to 25 minutes. At 12:20 p.m., four formations of four MiG-15s each took off. The aircraft repeatedly assembled in the air and disbanded. Between 7 and 11 p.m. aircraft took off individually and in elements of two. The individual planes practiced flying for about 5 minutes while the aircraft in elements of two remained aloft for about 30 minutes.

25 July. Between 8:25 a.m. and 3 p.m., swept-back jet fighters took off individually, in elements of two and in formations of five planes at intervals of 10 to 30 minutes. The planes usually circled the field, the individual planes remaining aloft for about 10 minutes and the formations for up to 30 minutes. Between 9 and 11 a.m. single-engine, low-wing monoplanes took off in three elements at intervals of about one hour. After 8:45 p.m., swept-back jet fighters took off individually and in elements of two and circled for about 10 minutes.

26 July. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., single-engine, low-wing monoplanes made local flights and other planes of the same type headed east.

28 July. Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., MiG-15s took off individually, at intervals of about 15 minutes, and made local flights for about 10 minutes. The sky was overcast, and there was a limited visibility. Between 9 and 10 p.m., MiG-15 or type-29 planes took off at intervals of about 20 minutes and circled the field for 10 to 15 minutes.

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29 July. Between 8:40 a.m. and noon, MiG-15s were observed circling the field. Between 3 and 10:45 p.m., MiG-15s made individual take-offs at intervals of 5 to 15 minutes. At the same time, a twin-engine plane was observed towing a sleeve target. The MiG-15s practiced firing at the sleeve target. After 8 p.m., aircraft took off in elements of two, flew at altitudes of from 500 to 2,000 meters and landed after about 10 minutes.

30 July. Take-offs were made individually and in elements of two between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Two type-29 planes were once observed taking off in an element. *

2. Six 37-mm AA guns were observed in the southeastern corner of the field along the fence. A board shed and 12 tents were located nearby. Only a few soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed in the emplacement. It was difficult to observe the interior of the AA gun emplacement. **

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* [] Comment. The observations confirm that the two fighter regiments at Finow airfield conduct intensive air training by day and night. It appears that formation flying in flight and squadron strength is mostly practiced at day- 25X1
time while flying in elements of two is practiced at night.

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** [] Comment. The location of the AA gun emplacements has not changed.

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